

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12 PA-01
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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 05731

SECDEF FOR C31

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, MARR, ETEL
SUBJECT: NATO "GAP FILLER" COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE

REF: STATE 140964 (030212ZJUN78) (NOTAL)

1. REFTEL ADVISES THAT THE US WOULD, UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, CONSIDER NATO PURCHASE OF A DSCS III SATELLITE AS A "GAP FILLER" BETWEEN THE NATO III AND NATO IV SATCOM PROGRAMS.
2. FORD AEROSPACE PERSONNEL CURRENTLY ARE CONTACTING VARIOUS NATO AND ALLIED DELEGATION PERSONNEL TO ARGUE THAT NATO SHOULD DECLINE THE US DSCS III OFFER AND GO FOR A NATO-TAILORED SATELLITE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT WASHINGTON IS AWARE OF THIS FORD EFFORT, WHICH RUNS DIRECTLY COUNTER TO THE US POSITION. WHILE WE CANNOT PREVENT FORD'S CONTACTING ALLIED REPS, WE SURELY HOPE TO COUNTERACT THEIR PRESENTATION.
3. WE LEARNED TODAY THAT FORD REPS ARE STATING THAT THE
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US IS CONSIDERING A JOINT NATO-US PROGRAM TO PURCHASE ONE OR MORE ADDITIONAL NATO III SATELLITES TO SERVE AS GAP-FILLERS. REPORTEDLY, THEY CONTEND THAT THE US IS CONSIDERING THE NATO III AS A GAP-FILLER BETWEEN THE US DSCS II AND DSCS III PROGRAMS AS WELL AS FOR THE NATO SATCOM PROGRAM. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, THE US HAS NOT CONSIDERED THIS COURSE, AND IF WE ARE CORRECT, WE WOULD

LIKE TO MAKE A STRONG DENIAL IMMEDIATELY.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE BY OOB WED,
JUNE 7. GLITMAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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